



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,028	09/04/2003	Troy J. Tranter	B-379	8489

7590 06/03/2005

Stephen R. Christian  
BBWI  
PO BOX 1625  
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83415-3899

EXAMINER
----------

JOHNSON, EDWARD M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1754

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,028

Applicant(s)

TRANTER ET AL.

Examiner

Edward M. Johnson

Art Unit

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-16 and 22-27, drawn to an adsorption medium and method of making thereof, classified in class 502, subclass 401.

II. Claims 17-21, drawn to a method of removing a constituent from a feed stream, classified in class 210, subclass 1+.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product could be used in a materially different process, such as a process for cracking or removing NOx from a waste stream.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by

Art Unit: 1754

their different classification, and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Stephen Christian on 4/26/05 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-16 and 22-27. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 17-21 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

Art Unit: 1754

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, and 25-27 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruening et al. US

6,232,265.

Regarding claims 1 and 25, Bruening '265 discloses a method for making a selectively binding particulate composition comprising dissolving a mixture of pentaerythritol and Ag/KOH catalyst, adding acrylonitrile and pouring into water; and polymerizing (see Example 3).

Regarding claims 2-5, 8, 10-12, Bruening '265 discloses Ag/KOH solution (see Example 3).

Regarding claim 7, Bruening '265 discloses nitric acid (see Example 12).

Regarding claims 13-15, Bruening discloses a solid bead support and passing the solution over a column of the particles (abstract).

Regarding claim 26, Bruening '265 discloses metal oxides (see claim 4).

Regarding claim 27, Bruening discloses pouring into water (see Example 3).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Art Unit: 1754

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 9, 16, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruening '265.

Regarding claim 22, Bruening '265 discloses 42.45g polymerized acrylonitrile.

Bruening fails to disclose 10-85% elemental metal.

It is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use 10-85% elemental metal because Bruening '265 discloses 40% Ag/KOH, and removal by filtration, which would obviously, to one of ordinary skill, at least suggest 10-85% of Ag after removal of liquid by filtration with a balance of polyacrylonitrile.

Regarding claim 6, Bruening discloses magnesium sulfate (see Example 3) and acetic acid (Example 2), which would at least suggest a sulfate or acetate anion.

Regarding claim 9, Bruening discloses 0.80 mole acrylonitrile and 0.10 tetranitrile (see Example 3).

Art Unit: 1754

Regarding claims 16, 23-24, Bruening '265 discloses 40% Ag/KOH, and removal by filtration, which would obviously, to one of ordinary skill, at least suggest 10-85% of Ag after removal of liquid by filtration with a balance of polyacrylonitrile.

**Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Girot et al. US 6,045,697 discloses a method for making a passivated porous polymer support comprising polyacrylonitrile and a dissolved metal solution (see description and Examples).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward M. Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-1352. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley S. Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1754

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edward M. Johnson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1754

EMJ